



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

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August 18, 2007

Mr. Brian Ohlinger
Facilities Management
Virginia Commonwealth University
P.O. Box 842502
Richmond, VA 23294

Re: Proposed Monroe Park Campus Recreation Center
Virginia Commonwealth University
DHR File No. 2006-1331

Dear Mr. Ohlinger:

I am responding to VCU's letter dated August 16, 2007 which Tonia Horton has shared with me. Your letter follows up on our comments through the Department of Environmental Quality on June 25, 2007 and our discussions since that time.

Your letter clarifies the current status of the project: that is, that design alternatives presented in the Environmental Impact Reports of July, 2006 and May, 2007 are no longer viable. We recognize and commend the efforts, summarized in the letter, to work with the community and to respond to competing interests and goals. This agency would have preferred to have had multiple options to consider in order to best guide you, and we encourage you to work closely with us in the future before project options are foreclosed for whatever reason. This is particularly important given the rich historical landscape and tight urban context in which the University operates.

That said, your letter outlines a comprehensive approach that reflects an understanding and careful consideration of the project's range of potential and known effects to historic resources. These resources include the State and National Register-eligible City Market-Auditorium (Monroe Park Historic District) and adjacent Oregon Hill Historic District contributing resources on Cherry and Cumberland Streets and on Green Alley. Moreover, we applaud your willingness to address the range of effects. Taken together,

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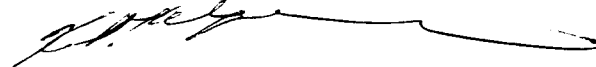
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the stipulations reflect a very significant commitment to address the complex of resources in the project area through appropriate strategies to avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects.

For these reasons, we would be pleased to enter into an agreement incorporating the stipulations set forth. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss these matters with you in recent weeks, and look forward to working with you, the City, and the stakeholder groups to implement the agreement as an important project goes forward in the public interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. Kilpatrick', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

Cc: John Fischer
Department of Environmental Quality